Dear Dr. Jiminez-

My name is Becky Russell, and I am a teacher-librarian at Fireside Elementary in Louisville, CO (a suburb of Boulder, CO, and part of Boulder Valley School District.)  Last year, I began a program for our school entitled “One Book, One Fireside,” a reading program designed to bring our school and community together through the reading of one book (an idea inspired by Boulder Public Library.)   This year, we have selected your book *The Circuit* as our “One Book, One Fireside” choice.  It is a great fit for our school for several reasons, but it is an especially great book to integrate with what we are calling “Fireside Pride.”  Each letter in the word pride represents a different character trait that we are emphasizing each month:

P – Politeness

R – Responsibility

I – Integrity

D – Determination

E – Excellence

We feel that your book exemplifies all five of these character traits, and you and your family have been an inspiration for many of us at our school.  A number of us have gone on to read (or are currently reading) the next two books in the series.

**We are particularly interested in exploring the possibility of flying you out to visit our school and talk to our students.  Due to a large grant we received, we potentially have the monies to pay for a flight, hotel stay, food and author charges (once we know the amount you would charge for a visit.)**

Of course, we realize that something like this may not work with your busy schedule.  But, if it’s a possibility, it would certainly be a highlight for our community, staff and students.

Please let me know if this is something in which you might be interested.  I look forward to hearing back from you either way.  Regardless, it’s been a true privilege to read your books.

Becky Russell

Fireside Elementary Teacher-Librarian

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**"How a school views its library program is a measure of what it feels about education."**

**One Book, One Fireside Overview for Parent/Student/Community Involvement**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Time Frame** | **Outcome** |
| Purchase English/Spanish copies of *The Circuit* for staff/library;  (This book was chosen by librarian and PBS committee for its tie-ins to PBS ‘Fireside Pride’ and for its many connections to our emerging Hispanic community) | September | Purchased 30 copies total of Spanish/English versions of book as of September, 2009 |
| Create enthusiasm in parent community of “One Book” choice by informing them of our “One Book” choice *The Circuit* and encouraging them to read it with their families. Communicate to parent via e-mail to our parent e-mail network and through our “Fireside Chat” newsletter | October | Have received positive parent feedback from the community. As of November, 2009, I have talked to four parents who have read the book with their children |
| Purchase sequels to *The Circuit* per parent requests | October | Have added the sequels *Breaking Through* and *Reaching Out* to our collection |
| Purchase English/Spanish books on CD per staff and parent requests | November | Added both to our collection in early November, due to parent and staff requests for this format |
| Make parent library cards for any parents that want to check out the book and/or CD | October - May | Have created 10 parent library accounts/cards between October and November as parents have requested to check out this book |
| Coordinate staff book club night to discuss the books and how we can connect it to our community | November | Created a list of discussion questions for our book club and got further input for discussion questions to use with parents and students, November 13, 2009 |
| Speak at Puentes to encourage Hispanic parents to read and/or listen to the book with their families | January | To be determined (TBD) |
| Circulate discussion questions via our library webpage to encourage discussion of this book. | January | TBD |
| Arrange student book clubs at lunch for 4th and 5th grade students to discuss the books | January, February, March, April | TBD |
| Add a “blog” to our library webpage to discuss the book with students and parents | March, April | TBD |
| Arrange for author Francisco Jimenez to speak to our students during the day and our parents at an evening session as a culmination activity for this book | May | TBD |